

Remarks:

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 - 5, 7 - 28, 30 - 46, 93 and 94 are presently pending in the application. No claims have been amended or canceled.

In item 1 of the above-identified Office Action, claims 1 - 5, 8 - 28, 31 - 46, 93 and 94 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 6,347,097 to Deng ("DENG").

In item 2 of the Office Action, claims 7 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over DENG in view of U. S. Patent No. 6,212,633 to Levy ("LEVY").

Applicants respectfully traverse the above rejections.

More particularly, Applicants' claim 1 recites, among other limitations,

transmitting, in units, data and information, concerning at least one of a transmission of the data and a use of the data, from a first device to one or more second devices to which the data does not concern, and one or more third devices to which the data does concern;

forming the units at least partly with at least one region defining a given time slot within which the second and third devices can output onto the bus specific information and/or data; [emphasis added by Applicants]

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Applicants' independent claims 24, 93 and 94 recite similar limitations to those cited above in connection with claim 1.

Applicants' specification and claims clearly shows that the "units" that are formed to include a region defining a time slot within which the second and third devices can output information and/or data, are defined frames or messages, as shown in Fig. 2 of the instant application. More particularly, paragraphs [0049] and [0050] of the instant application state:

The aforesaid units in which the data to be transmitted is transmitted together with information that is required or useful for the transmission and/or the use of the data and/or further information, are, for example, the frames or messages which are known from already existing bus systems. However, the frames or messages which are used in the method in question here have a structure different from conventional frames or messages.

An example of the structure of a frame or a message which is used in the method in question here is illustrated in FIG. 2. [emphasis added by Applicants]

Fig. 2 of the instant application is reproduced below for convenience.

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**FIG 2**

As can be seen from Fig. 2, Applicants' claimed frames or "units" include a field entitled "REPLY" which is part of the frame and which has a length defined as part of the definition of the frame. This is supported in the instant application in paragraph [0051], which states:

This frame or this message comprises a synchronization field SYN, an identifier field ID, a control field CTRL, a data field DATA, an error detection field CRC, and a reply field REPLY. [emphasis added by Applicants]

As noted above, all of Applicants' claims require, among other limitations, that both second devices to which the data does not concern and third devices to which the data does concern output data onto the bus during the time period of a "REPLY" field of a particular unit. This is further supported in the instant application in paragraph [0058], which states:

The reply field REPLY is not filled with data, or at any rate only filled partially with data, by the device sending the frame or the message. This field thus defines a time slot in which the devices which are not bus master can, or must, output data onto the bus. Depending on the length of the time slot defined by the reply field, one or more bits can be

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transmitted via the bus in that time slot. [emphasis added by Applicants]

As such, all of Applicants' claims require, among other limitations: Frames/"units" transmitted by a first unit are formed to include at least one region defining a given time slot within which second devices to which the data does not concern and third devices to which the data does concern, can output onto the bus specific information and/or data. In other words, Applicants' claims require, among other things, that the second and third devices output data onto the bus during a specific portion of a frame defined by the frame parameters, as sent by the first device.

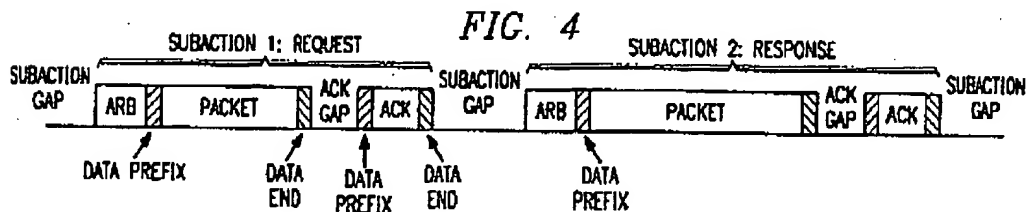
The DENG reference neither teaches, nor suggests, the transmission of such "units" or frames having a period defined by the frame sent by a first device, within which second devices to which the data does not concern and third devices to which the data does concern, can output information and/or data. More particularly, as set out in the response to the previous Office Action, that response being incorporated herein, DENG fails to teach or suggest that receivers . downstream of the sender that are intended to receive the message and that are not intended to receive the message output information and/or data onto the bus during a period of the frame sent by the sender, as required by Applicants'

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claims. In fact, in DENG, only the device to which the message is intended transmits information and/or data onto the bus during the transmitted frame. DENG defines in its frame a period called the "ack-gap", during which the device for which the message is intended transmits information (i.e., an acknowledgement). This is supported by col. 6 of DENG, lines 34 - 43, which in relation to Fig. 4, states:

Referring now to FIG. 4, there is illustrated a subaction in the link layer 52 for an asynchronous transmission of a packet. This subaction is in the form of a request and a response. There is provided an arbitration sequence which is transmitted by a node that wishes to transmit a packet, this being transmitted to the physical layer 54 to gain control of the bus 58. The physical layer 54 may then respond immediately if it already controls the bus. This is followed by a data packet transmission which, for asynchronous subactions, involves the source node sending a data prefix signal (including a speed code, if needed), addresses of the source node and destination nodes, a transaction code, a transaction label, a retry code, data, one or two cyclic redundancy checks (CRCs), and a packet termination (either another data prefix or a data end signal). This is all followed by an acknowledgment field wherein a uniquely addressed destination returns a code indicating to the transmitting node the action taken by the packet receiver. [emphasis added by Applicants]

Fig. 4 of Deng is reproduced herebelow for convenience.



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DENG specifically teaches sending a data packet during a subaction, the data packet including a field (i.e., the "Ack-gap") in which only a uniquely addressed destination returns a code. This specifically differs from Applicants' claimed invention wherein a data packet/"unit" is sent including a field during which both second devices to which the data does not concern and third devices to which the data does concern output information and/or data.

In the Office Action, on page 2 of the Office Action, it is implied that the "subaction gap" of Fig. 4 of DENG is part of Applicants' claimed "units at least partly with at least one region defining a given time slot within which the devices transmitting no data can output data representing specific information". Applicants' respectfully disagree. As shown in Fig. 4 of DENG, the "subaction gap" is not part of the transmitted data packet. Note in Fig. 4 of DENG the brackets delimiting subaction 1 from subaction 2, do not include the subaction gap. That the "subaction gap" of DENG is not part of the transmitted data packet or defined by the transmitted data packet is further supported in col. 6 of DENG, lines 43 - 52, states:

Each of these asynchronous subactions is separated by periods of idle bus called "subaction gaps." This gap is disposed between the packet transmission and acknowledgment reception. This "ack-gap" is of

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varying lengths depending upon where the receiver is on the bus with respect to the senders of the link request and acknowledgment (ack). However, the maximum length of the ack-gap is sufficiently shorter than a subaction gap to ensure that other nodes on the bus will not begin arbitration before the acknowledgment has been received. [emphasis added by Applicants]

The above portion of DENG sets out, both, that the subaction gaps are not part of the data packet transmissions, nor defined as part of the frame/"unit", as required by Applicants' claims, and that the "ack-gap" of the subaction is set sufficiently short so that other devices do not use it to begin arbitration. Clearly, DENG fails to teach or suggest "units" sent by a first device including predefined time periods in the unit/frame during which both devices for which the message is intended and devices for which the message is not intended output information and/or data, as required by Applicants' claims. Rather, the "subaction period" of DENG, as specifically shown in Fig. 4, is not part of the transmitted data packet or "unit", and is not a time period defined by the transmitted data packet or "unit". DENG does not teach or suggest that the data packet definition is what defines the length of the subaction gap. As such, although the DENG reference discloses a data packet including an "ack-gap" period, during which a device for which the message is intended outputs "a code", DENG neither teaches, nor suggests, a time period as part of the data packet or unit, and defined

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by the data packet or unit, during which a device for which the message is not intended, outputs information and/or data. In view of the foregoing, Applicants' believe that the DENG reference neither teaches, nor suggests, all of the limitations of Applicants' independent claims. As such, Applicants' claims are believed to be patentable over the DENG reference.

Applicants believe that the LEVY reference, cited in combination with DENG against certain of Applicants' dependent claims, additionally fails to teach or suggest the above described elements of Applicants' independent claims missing from the DENG reference, among others. As such, DENG, alone, or in combination with LEVY, fails to teach or suggest Applicants' claimed invention.

It is accordingly believed that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, teach or suggest the features of claims 1, 24, 93 and 94. Claims 1, 24, 93 and 94 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art. The dependent claims are believed to be patentable as well because they all are ultimately dependent on claims 1 or 24. As it is believed that the claims were patentable over the cited art in their original form, the claims have not been amended to overcome the references.

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In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1 - 5, 7 - 28, 30 - 46, 93 and 94 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate receiving a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out. In the alternative, the entry of the response is requested, as it is believed to place the application in better condition for appeal, without requiring extension of the field of search.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Please charge any fees that might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



For Applicants
August 9, 2005

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